

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KATHMA 02219 011127Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8441
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

S E C R E T KATHMANDU 2219

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 XGDS -4
TAGS: SNAR, NP
SUBJ: OPIUM - NEPAL

REF: STATE 122979

1. EMBASSY AGREES ENTIRELY WITH PROPOSAL TO MAKE PARALLEL DEMARCHES IN WASHINGTON AND KATHMANDU ALONG ALINES OF REFTTEL. WE ALSO AGREE THAT IT WOULD BE PREMATURE AND COUNTERPRODUCTIVE AT THIS STAGE TO MAKE REFERENCE TO POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT IN NARCOTICS BY MEMBERS OF ROYAL FAMILY.

2. I WOULD SUGGEST THAT DEMARCHE IN KATHMANDU BE MADE WITH PRIME MINISTER GIRI. FONMIN ARYAL'S KNOWLEDGE OF NARCOTICS MATTERS IS LIMITED AND THERE IS POSSIBILITY HE WOULD WEAKEN PRESENTATION AT HIGHER LEVELS IF IT BECAME APPARENT HE WAS INTERFERING IN OPERATION INVOLVING ROYAL FAMILY.

3. I DISCUSSED THIS QUESTION MAY 30 WITH HOME MINISTER GHIMERE. HE SAID THAT GOVERNMENT HAD, INDEED, BEEN STUDYING POSSIBILITY OF OPIUM PRODUCTION BUT THAT TO BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE "NO DECISION HAD YET BEEN TAKEN". WHD SUGGEST, THEREFORE, THAT DEMARCHE BE MADE AS
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QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE SINCE IT WOULD BE EVEN MORE DIFFICULT TO VERTURN POSITIVE DECISION ONCE IT HAS BEEN TAKEN.

5. WE ALSO NOT THAT GON OFFICIALS WITH WHOM WE HAVE SPOKEN ARE UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT AS A NON-SIGNATORY OF THE 1961 SINGLE CONVENTION NEPAL COULD

PRODUCE AND EXPORT RAW OPIUM ON THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET WITHOUT INTERNATIONAL SANCTION. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO CALL TO KHATRI'S AND GIRI'S ATTENTION THE BASIC PROVISIONS OF THAT AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS (NONE OF WHICH NEPAL HAS SIGNED) WHICH WOULD ACT AS POTENTIAL DETERRENTS TO NEPAL'S ENTERING THE WORLD MARKET.

6.FOR OUR OWN INFORMATION IN TALKING WITH GON OFFICIALS WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT SANCTIONS WOULD APPLY TO A NON-SIGNATORY UNDER THOSE AGREEMENTS. WOULD, FOR EXAMPLE, NEPAL BE ABLE TO SELL OPIUM OR MORPHINE BASE TO REPUTABLE PHARMACEUTICAL COMANIES? ANY OTHER SEPCIFIC INFORMATION TO DEMONSTRATE THE LIMTED MARKET WOULD BE USEFUL. EAVES

SECRET

NNN

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